

MICROENTREPRENEUR, WORKER IN BRAZIL AND THE CHALLENGES FOR HEALTH AND QUALITY OF LIFE

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Abstract

In the current scenario of transformations in the most diverse work activities due to the development and application of technologies, the flexibilization of labor relations, the high level of unemployment and economic uncertainties, there is a simultaneous growth in the number of individual micro-entrepreneurs in Brazil. The individual microentrepreneur personifies the precariousness of work in which health and, as a result, quality of life are compromised. This study analyzed the evolution of the number of micro-entrepreneurs in Brazil from 2010 to 2019 and its correlation with unemployment in the country. The data survey was carried out through the Entrepreneur Portal database and the discussion was based on the literature on worker health. The survey result indicated more than nine million micro-entrepreneurs in 2019. Exposure to precarious working conditions and weakening labor relations are determining factors in the health of workers.

Keywords: workers; precariousness; health promotion;

1. Introduction

These activities are exemplified through those made possible through the use of new mobile technologies,

such as application drivers and delivery people. They are forms based on a work model without social protection and without guarantees (Slee, 2017; Antunes, 2018).

At the same time that these transformations are experienced, the unemployment picture is aggravated. The International Labor Organization (ILO), in January 2020, pointed out that the insufficiency of paid jobs affects about half a billion people in the world; furthermore, with the slowdown in global economic growth, no new jobs are being created (International Labor Organization [ILO], 2020).

Unemployment is expected to reach 2.5 billion people by the end of 2020, according to estimates, and this is directed towards unregistered and unbenefited workers, leading to underutilization of labor, poverty, income inequality and other factors that exclude people in decent work (United Nations [UN], 2020).

In Brazil, the indexes referring to the unemployment rate, especially from 2014, increased; in 2019, this rate reached 11.9% (Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics [IBGE], 2020). In this scenario, individual micro-entrepreneurs (MEIs) emerge, the fastest growing job category in the country today, portraying the high level of structural and conjunctural unemployment, a reflection of the economic and political uncertainties that permeate employment and labor relations. Around the 2000s, public policies started to support small businesses, according to Law n. 128 (2008), which configured the self-employed person, in addition to legalizing him as a legal entity, creating conditions for the informal worker to become a legalized MEI (Campanha, Lorenzo, Fonseca & Paulillo, 2017).

This scenario of economic slowdown, changes in work formats, loss of social rights, informality and precariousness lead workers to also develop health problems, which involve physical and mental factors, directly affecting their quality of life (Schor & Fitzmaurice, 2015).

According to Albornoz (1992, p. 63), “in what man produces, he is recognized and recognized; and it recognizes the social relationship, the relationship between men and objects through work, the use of instruments, creates the relationship between men and men themselves”. This excerpt denotes the centrality of the work of the human being, in such a way that, in the ways of working, the ways of getting sick are manifested (Antunes, 2013; Antunes & Praun, 2015; Dallago, 2010). This shows that the current transformations taking place in the mode of production and work relationships have an impact on workers' health.

Added to this is the understanding that health results from a set of factors related to how the citizen, population or community live (World Health Organization [WHO], 2019), in order to have a quality of life that, in turn, it is linked to basic requirements, such as education, basic sanitation, housing, income, work, food, among others that are fundamental for the social equity of the residents of a city or a country (BRASIL, 2017).

Being healthy is not only synonymous with the absence of disease; it means a situation of perfect physical, mental and social well-being of an individual (WHO, 2019). Based on this discussion and defending the existence of a precarious labor scenario today, studies along this analytical line are justified in the sense that quality of life is a conditioning and necessary factor for the health of these workers.

As this is a category of workers that is growing in number and in segments of activity and considering their characteristics of vulnerability in entering the labor market, this study analyzes the evolution of the number of micro-entrepreneurs in Brazil in the period from 2010 to 2019 and its correlation with the unemployment rate, as well as the economic activities of individual professionals that emerged in the period, in order to

discuss the worker's health in this scenario.

2. Method

To compose the study, a survey was carried out on individual microentrepreneurs, through the primary database, available on the Entrepreneur Portal, managed by the federal government (Portal doentrepreneur, 2020). With the evolution and growth in the number of MEIs, the year 2010 was taken as a base, as it was the year following the year in which the Brazilian government began collecting data for the category. Once the registration of all regular MEIs in the country until 2009, the numbers are fed into the portal continuously (Portal do Entrepreneur, 2020). For the present research, we initially extracted all the numbers of MEIs in Brazil registered in the period from 2010 to 2019, in order to subsequently generate spreadsheets with such data. The first analysis was carried out using the extracted database to identify the increase in the number of MEIs in Brazil and to analyze the percentage growth and variation between 2010 and 2019.

Due to the return of the number of MEIs and the variation over the period, another purpose emerged: to analyze the unemployment rate in the same period and a possible correlation between the growth of MEIs and the increase in the unemployment rate in the same period. Two variables were used as coefficients (number of MEIs and number of unemployed) and, to apply them, the degree of correlation was measured using the Pearson's crossover method (Pearson, 1896). All analyzes were performed using Microsoft Excel software, version 2013, and the statistical environment R (R Development Core Team), version 3.5.

2. Results and discussion

With the inclusion of micro-entrepreneurs from 2009 on the Entrepreneur's Portal, a growing number of MEIs was found, mainly in the period from 2010 to 2019. The economically active population, which represents an important component of the activity and unemployment rate, means that the population is inserted in the labor market or is looking to exercise some paid activity, made up of workers who are in the workforce.

In 2010, according to the Institute for Applied Economic Research (Institute for Applied Economic Research [IPEA], 2016), there were 96 million Brazilians economically active in the country; in the same year, there were 771,715 records of MEIs in Brazil Table 1, that is, 0.80% of the economically active population was classified as MEIs (IBGE, 2020).

In December 2019, there were 9,430,438 million companies registered as MEIs in Brazil (Entrepreneur Portal, 2020) and the economically active population was 79.9 million Brazilians, which corresponded to 46.7% of the total population; the rest of the population that did not fit as economically active population – 53.3% – was in favor of the economically active (IBGE, 2020). It is assumed that the number of MEIs corresponded to 11.2% of this active population and that the number of economically active people decreased.

Table 1 shows the total number and annual growth of MEIs from 2010 to 2019 in Brazil.

Table 1. Total annual MEIs from 2010 to 2019 in Brazil

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
MEIs	771.715	1.656.953	2.665.605	3.659.781	4.653.080	5.680.614	6.649.896	7.738.590	7.739.452	9.430.438

Source: Prepared by the author based on data from the Entrepreneur's Portal (2020).

It is observed that the number of MEIs grew continuously between 2010 and 2019, representing an increase of 1122.0% in the period. It is worth noting that this period is marked by high unemployment rates in Brazil. In the period under analysis, unemployment rates showed an increasing trend in the country: according to Table 2, from 7% in 2010 to 11.9% in 2019, reaching 11.9 million people.

Table 2. Annual unemployment rate in Brazil and growth percentage of MEIs in the same period

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
ANNUAL UNEMPLOYMENT RATE (%)	7%	6%	6,9%	6,2%	6,5%	9%	12%	11,8%	11,6%	11,9%
ANNUAL GROWTH (%)	1646,4%	114,7%	60,9%	37,3%	27,1%	22,1%	17,1%	16,4%	0,0%	21,8%

Source: Prepared by the author based on IBGE data (2020).

It is observed that the annual growth rate of MEIs was higher in the first years, as was to be expected. The possibility of reducing taxes and reducing bureaucracy in the processes led the Brazilian government to encourage the formalization of micro-entrepreneurs, which was considered an advance in Brazilian public management.

According to Lorga (2013, p. 186), the micro-entrepreneur is an important social instrument for dignifying society. With the reduction of the tax burden and the reduction of bureaucracy, reducing taxes to a single guide, the obligations required by the Federal Revenue Service were also minimized, facilitating the approximation of the taxpayer with the State (Furtado, 2004).

Some states even emerged with a greater number of MEIs due to the amount of local population and the need for products and services, as well as the economic concentration of businesses, such as the state of São Paulo. Small businesses can be one of the main solutions for the economic crisis experienced by Brazil, with the possibility of influencing the unemployed, informal self-employed and entrepreneurs to open their own businesses, which, until then, did not have the necessary means, thus enabling opportunities to manage their own businesses, in addition to their insertion in the active economic scenario in Brazil (Batista, Nóbrega, Almeida Júnior, Moreira & Maracajá, 2013).

However, the growth in the unemployment rate was not accompanied by the increase in the number of MEIs, showing an inverse relationship between the two variables. This correlation is shown in Figure 1.

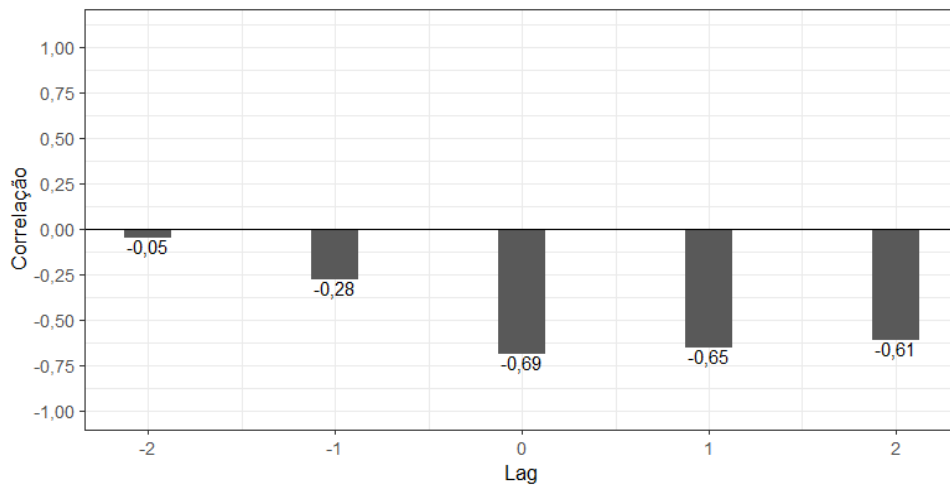


Figure 1. Cross correlation of the annual growth series of MEIs (%) and the unemployment rate in Brazil (%) from 2010 to 2019.

Considering the temporal behavior of the series evaluated, it can be seen in Figure 2 that the annual growth of MEIs (%), although always positive in the period analyzed, showed a progressive decrease from 2011 to 2018, when it reached 0%; on the other hand, a significant increase was observed in 2019, reaching 21.80%. On the other hand, the unemployment rate experienced great growth in the country between 2014 and 2016, remaining relatively stable from 2016 to 2019.

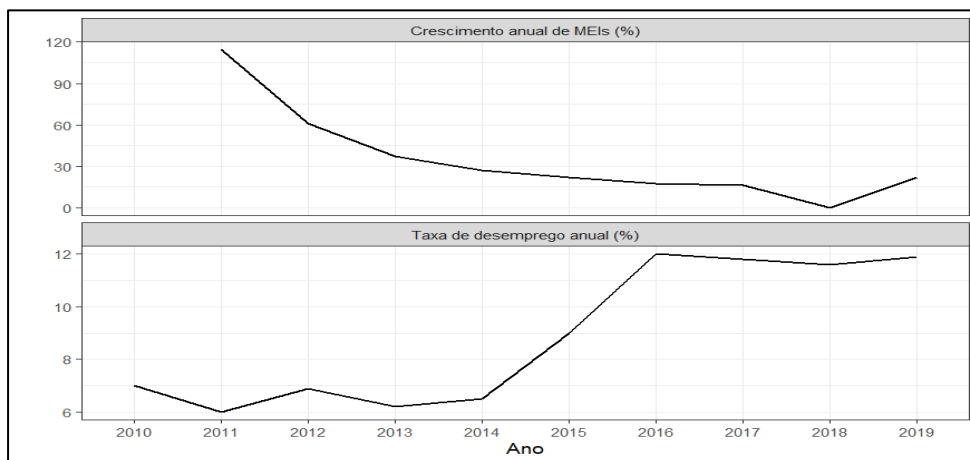


Figure 2. Line graphs of the annual growth series of MEIs (%) and the unemployment rate in Brazil (%) from 2010 to 2019.

It was expected that the unemployment rate and the increase in MEIs in Brazil during the period from 2010 to 2019 would be positively correlated. However, as shown in Figure 1 and Figure 2, regardless of the time interval (Lag), the correlation between the two variables evaluated was negative, with the strongest correlation observed in the interval 0, from - 0.69, which allows us to infer that the unemployment rate series presents an inverse relationship in relation to the growth rate of MEIs. This means that the higher the unemployment rate in a given year, the lower the growth of MEIs in that same year tends to be.

It is also noteworthy that the correlation coefficients between the number of MEIs and the unemployment rate decrease in larger time intervals, especially in negative time intervals, pointing out that the relationship between the variables is stronger in the current, immediate year.

Thus, the two variables showed a much greater relationship in the same year, if this is compared to later or previous impacts. In this sense, the crisis in the generation of jobs and, consequently, of income, leads to new mechanisms and new alternatives that help the subject to overcome the crisis situation. One way is to create your own business (Melo, Melo & Pereira Junior, 2018).

In Table 1, the number of MEIs per economic activities activity (Federal Revenue, n.d.) in the analyzed period is elucidated.

Table 1. Total MEIs by operation in Brazil from 2010 to 2019.

Professional performance	N.º de MEIs	% in relation to Brazil
Fixed location	6.173.315	43,85%
In a fixed location, outside the store	1.492.459	10,60%
External service	3.508.165	24,92%
Automatic machines	147.740	1,05%
Internet	1.794.643	12,75%
Postal services	382.047	2,71%
Telemarketing	580.209	4,12%
	14.078.578	100%

Source: Prepared by the author based on data from the Entrepreneur's Portal (2020).

The form of operation by a fixed establishment is characterized as follows: activities carried out in a specific location, in a property whose address coincides with the establishment's address, such as a home office, representing 43.85% of the total MEIs in Brazil.

Acting in a fixed location, outside the store, location, building, head office refers to kiosks, stalls, whose address does not match the establishment's address, equivalent to 10.6% of the total MEIs. The activities of door-to-door, mobile stations and street vendors involve the physical (personal) displacement of the service provider directly to the physical or legal homes of customers, drivers, direct sales, open fairs, street vendors; this form of action corresponds to 24.92% of MEIs in the country. Automatic machines, on the other hand, encompass those activities carried out through the use of beverage, variety and self-service machines, equivalent to 1.05% of the total.

Internet exercise refers to activities in the areas of information technology, support, communication networks, which represent 12.75% of the total MEIs in Brazil.

Postal services are activities performed through the offer, purchase and contracting by written correspondence, by sale through catalogs, by portfolios, by parcels, by pouches, regardless of the vehicle used to deliver the product or service, corresponding to 2.71% of the total. Telesales are equivalent to MEI's activities associated with offers, purchases and contracting by telephone, equivalent to 4.12% of the total. Thus, the predominant form of action, as shown in Table 1, is the fixed establishment, home office, which

has been growing due to technological evolution, communication, connectivity, which enables remote work, without the need for physical displacement, followed by door-to-door, by mobile stations and by street vendors that, together, are equivalent to 68.77% of the total, which are part of the collaborative economy, working in the provision of services and as drivers.

Table 2 shows the numbers of individual micro-entrepreneurs, classified by age group, according to the amount of participation, as well as their percentage of representation in the period from 2010 to 2019.

Table 2. Total MEIs by age group.

Age group	Number of MEI's	Percentage
16-17	753	0,01%
18-20	83.100	0,84%
21-30	2.074.483	21,03%
31-40	3.070.772	31,14%
41-50	2.153.722	24,17%
51-60	1.389.830	16,12%
61-70	555.916	5,65%
Acima de 70	101.861	1,04%
Menor de 16	1	0%
Total	9.430.438	100%

Source. Prepared by the author based on data from the Entrepreneur's Portal (2020).

Assessing the age group distribution of MEIs in the country, as shown in Table 2, it is noted that the most frequent age groups are as follows: 31-40 (31.14%), 41-50 (24.17%) and 21-30 (21.03%), totaling together 76.34% of the companies constituted by MEIs. Sequentially, people aged 61 to 70 years old (5.65%) and 18 to 20 years old (0.84%) became, from 2010 to 2019, micro-entrepreneurs in Brazil.

In that same period, considering the economic activities carried out by the MEIs in the country, there was a high growth in the categories of activities that fit into the National Classification of Economic Activities (CNAE). As an example, the municipality of Maringá, located in the North of Paraná, was taken. The city has a total of 25,409 subscribers on the Entrepreneur Portal, which are subdivided into 299 categories; for this study, the categories that were most representative for the performance of females and males were selected up to a score of 150 MEIs in the same activity, as shown in Table 3.

Table 3. Total MEIs in the municipality of Maringá (PR), as described by the CNAE, considering activities with more than 400 MEIs per participation category until 2019.

National Classification of Economic Activities (CNAE)		Total MEIs	Men	Woman
1.º	Hairdressers	2.363	545	1.818
2.º	Sales promotion	1.760	1.042	718
3.º	Retail trade of apparel and accessories	1.726	373	1.353
4.º	masonry works	1.258	1.207	51

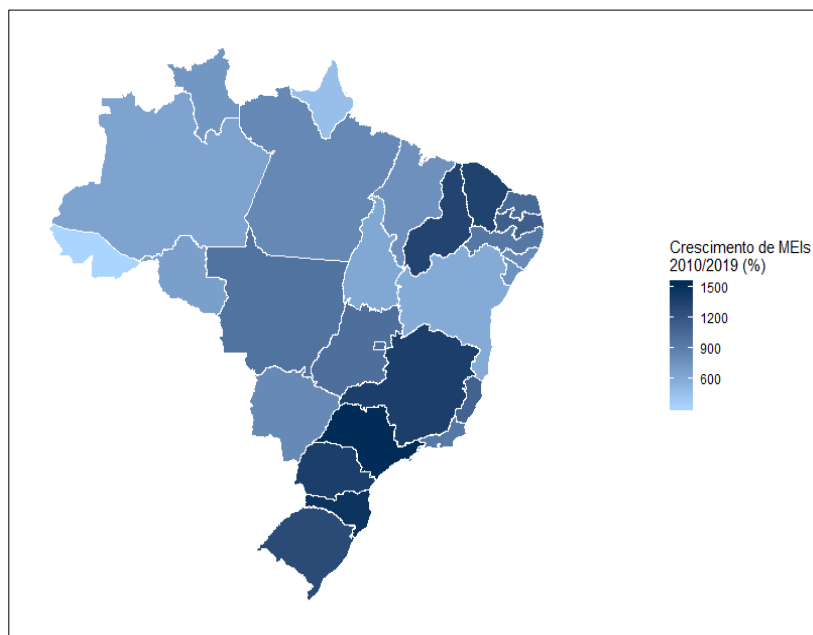
5.º	Installation and electrical maintenance	795	723	72
6.º	Other Beauty Treatment Activities	772	22	750
7.º	Other teaching activities	652	281	371
8.º	General Building Painting Services	616	584	32
9.º	Preparation of documents and administrative support services	566	281	285
10.º	Snack bars, tea houses, juice bars and similar	466	223	243
11.º	Training in professional and managerial development	444	214	230
12.º	Domestic services	427	14	413
13.º	Manufacture of garments	413	26	387
TOTAL WITH PARTICIPATION OF COMPANIES ABOVE 400 PER CNAE		18.179	8970	9.209
13th-299th - Below 150 by CNAE, there are 260 categories		7229	4581	2648
General		25.409	13.551	11.858

Source: Prepared by the author based on data from the Entrepreneur's Portal (2020).

Likewise, the increase in the number of MEIs in the country did not occur, in a homogeneous way, in the Brazilian states, as shown in Figure 3.

The states located in the South and Southeast regions showed, in general, the highest growth rates between 2010 and 2019, with the highest being identified in the state of São Paulo (1525.7%). On the other hand, the lowest rate refers to the state of Acre (310%).

Figure 3. MEIs growth (%) in the states of Brazil between 2010 and 2019.



Source: Prepared by the author based on data from the Entrepreneur's Portal (2020).

Thus, with the transition of work and with the increase in precarious work, without employment bonds, guarantees and benefits, the worker also starts to compromise their quality of life.

The growth of precarious work, which is not recent, has existed since the beginning of salaried work, directly reflecting on social issues of the 21st century (Wacquant, 2013). The emergence of a society pressured by labor changes and an unstable economy is generating the spread of temporary and insecure work, that is, uncertain, unwarranted, unpredictable, in which employment risks are assumed by the worker and not the employer (Beck, 2000).

With the emergence of integrative communication technologies, which are increasingly present in people's daily lives, there were many changes in performance and in the work model. In this context, nomenclatures, such as collaborative economy and shared economy, emerged and are frequently used in questions related to the economy (Brasil, 1990). The sharing of services occurs in all sectors of society, whether to save, to have an increase in income or even to guarantee an individual's monthly income. The increased use of mobile devices, applications as work support tools, which are resources that expand performance and agility in communication, is a new method of dialogue in labor and commercial relationships; with this, professional performance changes, using digital platforms as a basis in order to promote interactions and generate business (Antunes, 1999).

The activities linked to the collaborative economy are the ones that have grown the most in the last decade in Brazil (Portal do Empreendedor, 2020). These are activities that include the creation, production, distribution, marketing and consumption of goods and services by different people and different organizations in a shared manner.

This type of transaction corresponds to a major transformation in the traditional business relationship model, which goes far beyond purchasing; this transaction allows consumers to buy goods and services at prices below what the market offers. It is important to highlight, however, that the collaborative or shared economy only happens as a result of technological advances, which made it possible to share services and products more quickly, far beyond what the population could imagine. This has produced a job market that allows for work without a job bond, so that the worker is an MEI. The new formats in the collaborative economy category are directly expanding with the use of mobile technology, modifying the labor relationship (Sundararajan, 2013). Workers who work, for example, as application drivers are part of precarious work, as sometimes, during their exercise, there are risks or health problems arising from working conditions.

Likewise, the businesses of individual microentrepreneurs gained strength mainly due to the more 'vulnerable' people in the professional sense, who were adapting to entrepreneurship and becoming microentrepreneurs (Slee, 2017).

With the expansion of work on digital platforms, practices considered precarious, known as social dumping, have also emerged, that is, a practice of unfair trade, which disrespects the Consolidation of Labor Laws, as per Decree-Law no. 5452 – CLT – (1943). An example of disrespect is the hiring of unskilled labor services with inhuman working conditions.

In this new work model for individual transport applications, a great leader in relation to the collaborative economy fits in the market: Uber (Uber, 2019), a company founded in the San Francisco region, United States of America, during the recession of the 2008 world crisis.

The emergence of e-hailing applications has provided the expressive adhesion of consumers through smartphones. Given this scenario in the Brazilian market, there are companies that explore the business model using the e-hailing platform (Moritz, 2011). It is worth noting, however, that the one that stands out most is Uber, which carries out individual and collective urban transport with private cars, excluding the possibility of intermediaries in the negotiation (Schor & Fitzmaurice, 2015). E-hailing platforms are tools through applications that make it possible to request transport services via the internet and geographic location, using mobile devices, in addition to the feasibility of monitoring the service provided (Joia & Altieri, 2017).

In 2015, they reached 150,000 drivers registered to provide services through the platform. That year, Uber was already present in 300 cities and 55 countries around the world (Slee, 2017). Currently, Brazil has more than 22 million registered users in the application and approximately 600,000 partner drivers of both sexes, spread across more than 100 Brazilian cities (Rosso, 2017).

It is known, however, that the current economic instability has increased the number of non-exclusive partner drivers in professional activity.

According to the CLT (Decree-Lei n. 5452, 1943), working hours mark, record the work, labor and performance of the employee. In the case of informal workers, they are the ones who define working hours and time, according to the flexibility of the work. This, however, does not mean that they work less, as flexible working hours in informal workers' processes convert non-working times into working times, that is, there is less idleness (Sundararajan, 2013).

The search for other work opportunities is a parallel alternative, so that there is a source of income within the so-called precariousness of work, which is motivated by the high rate of unemployment (Slee, 2017).

2.1 The challenges for workers' health and quality of life

Law no. 8080 (1990), sanctioned in September 1990 as the Organic Health Law, in its article 6, provides for the responsibility of the Unified Health System (SUS) to coordinate the national policy on worker health. In §3 of the same article, the text establishes that it is responsible for providing guidance for the execution of actions to promote and protect the health of workers, establishing, for that, rules and procedures on health problems for the individual (Law n. 8080, 1990).

Added to this is the relationship with the labor nexus. Current changes in employment relationships and unstable contractual relationships have made work precarious and, therefore, are the cause of illnesses and health problems for workers (Antunes, 1999). Flexibility at work increased workers' responsibilities, which did not happen with their wages and benefits (Slee, 2017). Thus, even without time control as in the case of MEIs, informal workers, application drivers feel compelled to work more hours a day to achieve their personal livelihood goals (Slee, 2017).

In addition, Ordinance/MS n. 1339 (1999) lists 11 health problems resulting from work, such as: incidence of illness, noise-induced hearing loss (PAR), occupational dermatoses, pneumoconiosis, repetitive strain injury (Ler-Dort), work-related cancer, occupational accident with exposure to biological material, work-related mental disorders and exogenous intoxication. In the context of extended hours and precarious working conditions, there is also the appearance of gastrointestinal, cardiac and osteoarticular problems,

mental disorders and work accidents, in addition to the smaller amount of benefits (Portaria/MS n. 1339, 1999).

Often, work is not performed in comfortable environments and are often performed in public environments (for example, in traffic). Thus, workers do not have a fixed location and environment to carry out their tasks; in addition, they face a series of storms, such as the weather and traffic conditions, which directly contribute to situations that compromise their health. The exhausting working hours, the precarious situation of the asphalt, traffic jams, noise, the relationship with customers, insecurity, among other health problems for workers, are parameters that are associated with quality of life. In this context, in addition to the discomfort to work, stress, daily pressure, anxiety to do all the work, reaching the limit, there is the cruelest side of suffering: the intellectual void that often turns into anguish, leading the worker to a feeling of incapacity (Dejours, 1999).

Precarious work affects health and, consequently, is reflected in the worker's quality of life, favoring occupational diseases, such as sedentary lifestyle, inadequate nutrition, in addition to cardiovascular diseases, which are accentuated in the excess of long hours. In addition, due to the intensity of work, insecurity and unhealthy conditions during the provision of the service (Rosso, 2017; Druck & Franco, 2007), the ideal scenario for the suffering and illness of the individual is created, since their minimal health needs are not met (Dejours, 1999). However, the economic crisis, lack of information and access to public programs such as the SUS, as well as the lack of personal interest in preserving health are also conditioning factors for risk and compromised quality of life (Minayo, 2006). According to Minayo (2006, p. 13), there is violence that is tolerated during life and there is violence that is condemned, such as economic violence that affects a large part of society of a social order marked by inequality and exclusion. This strongly affects health, with mental and emotional problems, which reduces the quality of life of citizens (Carvalho, 2013). As well as the behavioral disorder, they are also diseases that can be acquired due to the fact that individuals do not have good working conditions, which have generated harmful consequences to the health of outsourced workers, service providers, drivers, delivery people, since who are the most vulnerable and the most likely to suffer work accidents, as well as stress, tachycardia and other symptoms (Sato, 2003).

The changes that have taken place in recent decades in the world of precarious and/or flexible work have resulted in the formation of injured workers, with physical and mental illnesses; many even needed to drastically change their professional lives. In this scenario, as there is no regulation of activities, there is weakness in effective protection, social setback and damage to health that affect the quality of life of workers (Antunes, 2013).

MEIs, informal workers, application drivers, delivery people, etc. they do not have benefits and guarantees from organizations whose labor and social responsibility is to promote the well-being of workers under their management. In the case of MEIs, they are often people who act as entrepreneurs for lack of opportunity in the job market. In most cases, these individuals have low education and, therefore, are unable to adapt to changes in the world of work, which is led by information technologies; thus, they are led to precarious working conditions, which generates dissatisfaction at work and, at the same time, suffering (Dejours, 1999).

The growing computerization of economic activities has contributed to creative activities or those aimed at cognitive development. This economic branch increasingly depends on the creation, discovery and

application of digital information, which requires more skilled and more empowered workers (Castells, 2003). In this context, there is the challenge of the high rate of unemployed, who need to return to economic activities, as well as the individual worker who is faced with a reality in which they need to learn to think and develop personal strategies to protect themselves, to prevent any problems and to promote your health. Public health promotion policies and the SUS (Law n. 8080, 1990; Consolidation Ordinance n. 2, 2017) are responsible for providing information, either with information or with interventions, to improve the quality of life of workers who work in precarious activities, since health promotion is an individual and collective process, that is, people and the population as a whole must train themselves and understand the importance of quality of life (Sato, 2003).

3. Conclusion

This study sought to understand the advance in the number of individual microentrepreneurs (MEIs) in the period from 2010 to 2019 in Brazil. Although the increase in MEIs between 2010 and 2019 was positive, even with the support of the State in simplifying taxes and accelerating bureaucratic processes that had been slow until then, a progressive decrease from 2011 to 2018 can be seen in the temporal behavior, reaching 0 %. In 2019, there was an increase, reaching 21.8%. On the other hand, the unemployment rate grew from 2014 to 2016, remaining relatively stable until then.

With the changes in the relationships and performances at work, the worker who is unemployed has the possibility of becoming an MEI or of returning to the labor market as an employee or, if not favourable, as an informal worker. In this context, along with transitions in work relationships, flexibilization, and, consequently, precariousness, as a response to these activities and precarious conditions, behaviors with harmful effects on health occur.

In this sense, considering the precarious working conditions and research on health and the challenges for a good quality of life for these workers, which are equivalent to 11.2% in the participation of labor throughout the country and who do not have benefits, guarantees, safety and prevention, the situation favorable to the increase in health problems is undeniable. Furthermore, due to the quality of the work environment – or lack of it – such individuals are subject to social vulnerability and the absence of better prospects for quality of life.

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